

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 11 ~~Claim-1~~, wherein the disc of the ~~closure member~~ includes a portion that is directly connected to the internal wall of the second duct without steps or discontinuities which might obstruct the flow of the ~~the~~ [[a]] fluid along the disc, ~~when the closure member closes the first duct.~~
3. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 16 ~~Claim-2~~, wherein the second duct is curved downward so as to favor ~~favour~~ the flow of the fluid from the valve ~~when it is mounted with the valve body disposed above the actuator means.~~
4. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 11 ~~claim-3~~, wherein the head of the closure member has a configuration diverging towards the sealing face ~~[[tip]]~~ at an angle of between 20° and 45°.
5. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 11 ~~Claim-4~~, wherein the ~~area of the disc~~ has a surface area that in plan is 10-20% greater than a ~~the~~ [[the]] cross-section of the first duct ~~closed by the closure member.~~
6. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 11 ~~claims-5~~, wherein the closure member is made of one of either PTFE, EPDM, ~~Teflon~~, or other similar polymer material.
7. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim 11 ~~claims-6~~, wherein the operating actuator means comprises ~~of the closure member comprise~~ an actuator body connected to the valve body, wherein the actuator body compresses an ~~squeezing the edge of the disc~~ oriented

away from the chamber against an abutment surface formed in the valve body, and wherein ~~there~~ is a sealing ring is provided between an ~~[[the]]~~ edge of the disc ~~circular ring~~ and the actuator body.

8. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim ~~Claim~~ 7, wherein the ~~rear end of the~~ core of the closure member includes an end opposite the head ~~[[is]]~~ connected to a collar movable axially in the actuator body in opposition to a ~~the resilient force of~~ resilient means compressed between the collar and a threaded sleeve that is ~~;~~ also movable axially inside the actuator body ~~and operated by a hand wheel~~.

9. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim ~~Claim~~ 8, wherein the resilient means comprise Belleville washers.

10. (Currently Amended): A valve according to claim ~~Claim~~ 8, wherein a shoulder is provided inside the actuator body for limiting the travel of the sleeve in an advanced position, and wherein so that when the closure member is in the closed condition, it the closure member is subject solely to a resilient ~~[[the]]~~ force of the resilient means in the closed position of the closure member.

11. (New): A shut-off valve comprising:

(a) a body having a chamber formed therein, the chamber including a first duct and a second duct each extending from the chamber, the chamber and each duct adapted to accommodate a fluid when fed through the body;

(b) a closure member including a central core, the core having a head oriented toward the first duct, the head having a larger diameter than the first duct and having a convex sealing face with respect to the first duct; and

(c) a flexible circular disc oppositely disposed from the first duct, the disc integrally formed with the head extending along both sides thereof and peripherally fixed to inner surfaces of the chamber whereby the disc separates in a sealed manner the chamber from an operating

means operatively coupled to the body, the closure member selectively positionable in one of an open position and a closed position via the operating means, the convex sealing face of the head disengaged from an inner opening of the first duct in the open position of the closure member thereby permitting free flow of the fluid between the ducts, the convex sealing face of the head engaged with and partially entering the first duct inner opening in the closed position of the closure member thereby preventing the free flow of the fluid between the ducts, the disc being in a convex orientation with respect to the chamber in the closed position of the closure member.

12. (New): The valve of claim 11, wherein the closure member is a one piece member, including both the closure member and the disc.

13. (New): The valve of claim 12, wherein the closure member is made of a flexible plastic material.

14. (New): The valve of claim 8, wherein the threaded sleeve is operatively moveable via a hand wheel.

15. (New): The valve of claim 11, wherein the valve is selectively rotatable by 180°, wherein the head is above the first duct inner opening in a first valve position and the head is below the first duct inner opening in a second valve position, and wherein the disc via its convex orientation in the closed position of the closure member limits collection of the fluid within the chamber regardless of valve position.

16. (New): The valve of claim 15, wherein the first duct is an inlet duct and second duct is an outlet duct.

17. (New): A shut-off valve, comprising:

(a) a body having a chamber formed therein, the chamber including an upwardly extending inlet duct and an outlet duct with each duct extending from the chamber;

(b) a closure member including a central core, the core having a head oriented toward the inlet duct;

(c) a flexible circular disc oppositely disposed from the inlet duct, the disc integrally formed with the head extending along both sides thereof and peripherally fixed to inner surfaces of the chamber whereby the disc separates in a sealed manner the chamber from an operating means operatively coupled to the body, the closure member selectively positionable in one of an open position and a closed position via the operating means, the convex sealing face of the head disengaged from an inner opening of the inlet duct in the open position of the closure member thereby permitting free flow of a fluid between the ducts, the convex sealing face of the head engaged with the inlet duct inner opening in the closed position of the closure member thereby preventing the free flow of the fluid between the ducts, the disc being in a convex orientation with respect to the chamber in the closed position of the closure member thereby limiting collection of the fluid by the disc.

18. (New): The valve of claim 17, wherein the disc is directly connected to an internal wall of the outlet duct without steps or discontinuities which might obstruct the free flow of the fluid along the disc.

19. (New): The valve of claim 17, wherein the head has a larger diameter than the inlet duct and has a convex sealing face with respect to the inlet duct thereby limiting collection of the fluid by the head.

20. (New): The valve of claim 19, wherein the sealing face partially enters the inner opening of the inlet duct in the closed position of the closure member.

21. (New): The valve according to claim 17, wherein the outlet duct is curved downward so as to favor the flow of the fluid from the valve.